Beutnagel 3-12-9

4. The method of claim 1 where a first of said two prosody parameter specifications is a pitch specification and a second of said two prosody parameter specifications is an energy specification.

5. The method of claim 1 where either one of said at least two prosody specifications specifies an energy with a target value corresponding to silence.

7. The method of claim 1 where said point in time for reaching target value of a specified prosody parameter of a phoneme from said plurality of phonemes is expressed in terms of time offsets from the beginning of phonemes.

10. The method of claim 1 where said signal also includes text specifications.

13. The method of claim 10 where said signal also includes image specifications.

14. The method of claim 1 where said point in time is specified as an offset from beginning of said one of said phonemes.

15. The method of claim 1 where said at least two prosody parameter specifications comprise at least two pitch specifications.

16. The method of claim 1 where said at least two prosody parameter specifications comprise at least two pitch specifications followed by an energy specification.

17. The method of claim 1 where said at least two prosody parameter specifications comprise a plurality of one or more pitch specifications and a plurality of one or more energy specifications.

18. The method of claim 1 where said at least one of said phonemes includes more than two prosody parameter specifications, with each specification of a prosody

2

Beutnagel 3-12-9

parameter specifying a target value for said prosody parameter and a point in time for reaching said target value

19. The method of claim 18 where each of at least two of said more than two parameter specifications specifies a pitch target value and a time for reaching said pitch target value.

20. The method of claim 18 where each of at least two of said more than two parameter specifications specifies an energy target value and a time for reaching said energy target value.

21. A method for generating a signal rich in prosody information comprising:

a first step for including in said signal a plurality of phoneme symbols,

a second step for including in said signal a desired duration of each of said phoneme symbols,

a third step for including at least one target prosody parameter value within a duration for at least one of said phonemes at an explicitly chosen time offset from the beginning of the duration of said phoneme that is greater than zero and less than the duration of said phoneme.

22. A method of claim 21 where said prosody parameter value is unrestricted at other than said chosen time offset.

REMARKS

On March 3, 2003, applicants' representative held a telephone interview with Examiner Opsasnick. The Examiner's helpful remarks and cooperative approach are greatly appreciated.

Based on the aforementioned interview, claim 1 is amended to make the language more affirmative, and the notion that the generated signal is for creating speech, rather than creating a corpus of data that is stored in a memory, is incorporated in the claim.

3